

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 248720

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTD BY: S/S:S GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 355

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 14419 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS
AMMAN BAGHDAD CASABLANCA JIDDA KUWAIT RABAT TRIPOLI TUNIS
19 DEC

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 14419

DEPT ALSO PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ETRN, ETRD, XF

SUBJECT: REPORTED US LONGSHOREMEN'S BOYCOTT OF SHIPPING TO ARAB
PORTS

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS DETAILS OF REPORTED BOYCOTT BY AMERICAN LONG-
SHOREMEN OF ALL SHIPPING DEPARTING FOR ARAB PORTS. ACCORDING TO
BEIRUT PRESS, TEDDY GLEASON, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE-
MEN(S ASSOCIATION (ILA), ANNOUNCED ILA MEMBERS WOULD REFUSE TO
LOAD ANY SHIP SAILING FOR ARAB WORLD UNTIL ARABS LIFT EMBARGO ON
OIL TO US.

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PAGE 02 STATE 248720

2. NEWS REPORT COMES AT INOPPORTUNE TIME. THREAT OF ARAB LABOR

BOYCOTT OF AMERICAN SHIPPING, AIRLINES AND OTHER INTERESTS, WHICH LOOMED LARGE ONE MONTH AGO, HAS VIRTUALLY ENDED LOCALLY (BEIRUT 12990) AND APPEARS TO HAVE RECEDED ELSEWHERE IN ARAB WORLD. WIDE-SPREAD AND EFFECTIVE EMBARGO ACTION BY ILA, HOWEVER, WOULD MOST PROBABLY TRIGGER ARAB LABOR RESPONSE. IN VIEW OF ONE FRIENDLY LEBANESE LABOR LEADER, ILA BOYCOTT WOULD FURNISH COMMUNISTS, SYRIANS AND OTHER ANTI-US FORCES IN ARAB LABOR CIRCLES STRONG ARGUMENT WITH WHICH TO REVIVE CONSIDERATION OF ARAB LABOR BOYCOTT OF US INTERESTS. MOREOVER, WITH RESUMPTION OF WEEKLY PANAM FLIGHTS TO DAMASCUS, OF FREQUENT US SHIP CALLS TO BEIRUT, AND OF OTHER NEAR NORMAL ACTIVITIES BY US COMPANIES, MORE TARGETS ARE EMERGING FOR ARAB LABOR RETALIATORY ACTION.

3. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS ANY INFO IT CAN USE TO MOST EFFECTIVELY EXPLAIN AND PUT LONGSHOREMEN ACTIVITIES IN PERSPECTIVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CONCERNED FRIENDLY TRADE UNION AND GOVERNMENT CONTACTS.

DECON 12/19/74.

BUFFUM

UNQUOTE RUSH

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